



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST  
937 NO. HARBOR DR.  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92132-0058

IN REPLY REFER TO:

COMNAVREGSWINST 6421.1B

SWRMC

23 JUN 2005

COMNAVREGSW INSTRUCTION 6421.1B

Subj: HYPERBARIC TREATMENT OF DIVING CASUALTIES AND NON-DIVING ILLNESSES IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION

Ref: (a) U.S. Navy Diving Manual, NAVSEA SS521-AG-PRO-010  
(b) BUMEDINST 6320.38B  
(c) OPNAVINST 3150.28A  
(d) OPNAVINST 5102.1C

1. Purpose. To establish policy, procedures, responsibilities, and requirements regarding the hyperbaric treatment of diving casualties and humanitarian treatments by Navy activities, installations, and organizations within Commander, Navy Region Southwest's (CNRSW) area of responsibility.

2. Cancellation. COMNAVREGSWINST 6421.1A.

3. Background

a. Regionalization of Navy activities in the Southwest has created the requirement for coordination within Navy Region Southwest (NRSW) for the implementation of Southwest Regional Bends Watch.

b. Reference (a) contains treatment tables and technical details of recompression and requires Commanding Officers of units conducting official diving operations assure the availability of their own recompression facilities, or by direct liaison, the facilities of other commands within the geographic area. Reference (b) provides policy for clinical use of recompression chambers for non-diving illnesses. Reference (c) promulgates requirements for preparation of dive log (OPNAV Form 3150/17) accident/injury data for all personnel who undergo hyperbaric exposure. Reference (d) provides specific guidance for reporting diving mishaps.

4. Scope. This instruction applies to all U.S. Navy activities, installations, and organizations that may require, or may require, clinical or non-clinical use of hyperbaric facilities in California, Arizona and Nevada. This instruction also applies to non-Navy organizations where the Navy is proposing to allow such organizations to conduct activities that will use Naval facilities, installations or assets within California, Arizona and Nevada.

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5. Discussion

a. Commands maintaining personnel adequately trained in chamber operations and the medical treatment of barotraumas and those non-diving illnesses for which hyperbaric treatment are listed in paragraph 5.b.

b. Pursuant to its operational missions, the Navy maintains and operates several hyperbaric chambers in the San Diego area. Additionally, several other San Diego regional commands have personnel trained in chamber operations and the treatment of diving casualties. The following San Diego commands have been identified as having hyperbaric chambers, trained personnel or both:

(1) Southwest Regional Maintenance Center, Naval Station San Diego (SWRMC).

(2) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit ONE, Naval ASW Base Point Loma (EODTEU ONE).

(3) Commander, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group ONE, Naval Base Coronado (COMEODGRUONE).

(4) Naval Special Warfare Group ONE, Naval Base Coronado (NAVSPECWARGRU ONE).

(5) Naval Special Warfare Center, Naval Base Coronado (NAVSPECWARCEN Coronado, CA).

(6) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit THREE, Naval Base Coronado (EODMU THREE).

(7) Deep Submergence Unit, Naval Base North Island (DSU San Diego, CA).

(8) Naval School of Health Sciences, Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego (NAVMEDCEN San Diego, CA)

(9) Space and Naval Warfare, Naval Base Point Loma (SPAWAR).

(10) Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit ONE Det ONE, Naval Station San Diego (MDSU ONE Det ONE).

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(11) Commander Submarine Squadron ELEVEN, Naval Base Point Loma (COMSUBRON ELEVEN).

(12) Commander Submarine Development Squadron FIVE, Naval Base Point Loma (SUBDEVRON FIVE).

(13) Naval Special Clearance Team ONE, Naval Base Coronado (NSCT ONE).

(14) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit SEVEN, Naval Station San Diego (EODMU SEVEN).

(15) First Force Reconnaissance Marine Dive Locker, Marine Base Camp Pendleton (FMF).

c. Military hyperbaric chamber facilities may not always be available due to operational commitments. Therefore, civilian entities, whether individuals or organizations, should always contact a civilian hyperbaric facility first. There are three civilian hyperbaric facilities located in southern California:

(1) The UCSD Medical Center Chamber at (619) 543-5222 (0730 - 1700). After hours call the emergency line at (619) 543-6400. The emergency line will contact UCSD or the Coast Guard and arrange transportation, if requested.

(2) Santa Catalina Chamber may be reached by contacting the University of Southern California Medical Alert Center at (323) 869-0578. They in turn will contact the chamber doctor and arrange transportation if requested. The 24-hour direct emergency number for the recompression chamber is (310) 510-1053. The business number is (310) 510-4020.

(3) The Grossmont Hospital/Hyperbarics Center at (619) 740-4160. The hospital emergency phone is (619) 465-0711.

6. Policy. Diving accidents requiring hyperbaric treatment in the San Diego area, which occur in the course of normal Navy/DOD operational commitments, will be in accordance with each command's established pre-dive mishap plan, reference (a). Recreational diving accidents, altitude decompression, sickness and hyperbaric medical treatments for DoD personnel, their dependents and for other civilians on an emergency basis will be affected through the Southwest Region Bends Watch promulgated in this instruction.

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7. Action. Southwest RMC (Code 990) shall:

- a. Act as the coordinating authority for recompression chambers within the Southwest Region and maintain the current status of chambers and personnel qualifications required to provide an adequate primary and back-up Southwest Region Bends Watch.
- b. Designate in writing the Senior Diving/Undersea Medical Officer (DMO/UMO) for the Southwest Region.
- c. Assign, maintain, and distribute via message information relating to the Southwest Region Bends Chamber Watchbill for area chambers, Diving Medical Officers, Master Divers and Diving Medical Technicians.
- d. Coordinate Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between units maintaining chambers as to appropriate personnel cross-training requirements/qualifications.
- e. Coordinate and distribute the monthly personnel roster.
- f. Provide a 24-hour watch for implementing a recall system for Diving Medical Officers, Master Divers and Diving Medical Technicians.

8. Responsibilities

a. The Southwest Region Senior (DMO/UMO) shall: Coordinate Diving/Undersea Medical Officer support for the Southwest Region Bends Watch and provide monthly DMO/UMO watchbill to Southwest RMC (Code 990) no later than the 12th of each month prior to the forthcoming month.

b. Duty DMO/UMO shall:

(1) Phone the SWRMC Diving Duty Officer (DDO) and obtain current chamber status, confirm they are the duty DMO/UMO and ensure the SWRMC DDO has their current phone and pager numbers.

(2) Ensure completion of medical records in treatment cases and file as required.

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(3) Advise the Duty Bends Watch Team on hyperbaric medicine matters, including non-dive illness treatment, in coordination with Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego.

c. Commanding Officers of units with chambers and/or qualified chamber personnel shall:

(1) Maintain chamber and personnel readiness and qualification sufficient for participation in the Southwest Region Bends Watch program and provide those assets as required.

(2) Advise Southwest RMC (Code 990) of changes in status of both chamber and personnel.

(3) Conduct appropriate on-going training for each duty Bends Watch Team assigned.

(4) Provide updated bends watch recall information as required.

d. Commander, Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego shall:

(1) Provide specialty assistance for the treatment of diving casualties and non-diving illnesses as necessary.

(2) Provide laboratory and ambulance support as required.

e. Duty Bends Team members shall:

(1) Be responsible to the SWRMC DDO and Duty Master Diver in their performance of duties.

(2) Phone the SWRMC DDO every Monday morning by 0900 and obtain current chamber status, confirm they are available and on call 24 hours during the watch period. Ensure the duty personnel and SWRMC DDO has their current recall phone and pager numbers.

(3) In the event of an emergent operation which conflicts with the bends duty assignments, watchstanders shall immediately contact the SWRMC Diving Duty Officer and Duty Master Diver to coordinate a relief.

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9. Persons requiring hyperbaric treatment should contact SWRMC DDO at (619) 556-7130 to initiate Duty Bends recall. Arrival at a recompression chamber without prior notification may result in a delay in treatment.



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